

than a week we had heard very little but a repetition of what had already been said. If this evil was not arrested, he, for one, was prepared to throw up his commission and go home in disgust. He understood reformers to come here from Western Maryland and say, as the gentleman from Washington county, (Mr. SCHLEY,) had said, that they were instructed to claim representation, based on numbers, for themselves, and to deny it to Baltimore city.

Mr. B. could not but regard this as a monstrous proposition, and he, for one, would never sanction it by his vote. Other gentlemen might do as they please, but he would make no compromise on this subject by his votes, which should be given to confer equal rights on all, and if defeated in that object by the votes of western reformers, he would vote to deny them what they denied to Baltimore city. He wished, therefore, to be distinctly understood, he had no compromise in his votes on this subject, but if a compromise be made by the Convention on this subject without his vote, he then reserved the right to look at the new Constitution when completed as a whole, and to vote for or against it as his judgment then dictated; so that while making no compromise himself, he might or might not vote for a new Constitution containing some adjustment of this question, along with other great and salutary reforms, but certainly the rejection of the popular basis would be a great objection to the new Constitution, however liberal the compromise might be.

The gentleman from St. Mary's, (Mr. BLAKISTONE,) had desired the privilege at once to record his vote on representation, and Mr. B. was as ready to register his vote as that gentleman, but he thought that gentleman came here to compare opposing views as well as to record votes.

Mr. BLACKSTONE explained that he came here to aid in making a Constitution. He wished to record his vote on that question and so did others, and he complained that Mr. BRENT did not state all that he had said.

Mr. BRENT replied, that to state all that the gentleman from St. Mary's, (Mr. BLAKISTONE,) had said, would take an hour or more. He, (Mr. B.) thought they had higher duties to perform here than merely voting. He desired an interchange of views, that if they failed to establish right and justice here, the seed sown in this hall should germinate broad-cast through the State. In conclusion, he hoped that as the subject of the elective franchise was fixed for Monday, we should postpone the matter of representation until after we had completed that subject. Let us, not begin this important discussion for two or three days and then leave it incomplete to retrace our steps to other unfinished business. Let us when we begin it, devote all our time and efforts to its demands.

Mr. SPENCER briefly defend his proposition against the attacks which had been made upon it. The committee had asked of the Convention to adopt their first resolution, declaring it inexpedient to establish federal numbers as a basis of representation; and also their second resolution

declaring it inexpedient to adopt the popular basis. If the Convention should pass these two resolutions, the committee will necessarily be driven back on a compromise. For this reason he thought his proposition ought to be adopted. There was another reason for the adoption of the amendment. On one side it was contended that popular numbers should be wholly disregarded; and on the other, that they constituted the true basis of representation. It was clear, from the indications around us, that neither extreme would succeed.

A compromise would be necessary. This question then would have to go to the committee to be settled on a principle of compromise. He saw no good which could rise out of the discussion now. One part of the State was opposed to the popular basis, while another part was in favor of it. How then, in this state of things, could the question be forced on the House? The member from Baltimore city, had admitted that popular numbers was his own choice, but that he would be willing to yield his preference, in a spirit of compromise. He was gratified that the gentleman from Baltimore took that ground. He stated, that by the adoption of his amendment, the Convention would, by their vote, say that the question ought to be compromised. He had no fear of any excitement. He saw round him familiar faces, and he could not be apprehensive of any danger. But if any gentlemen feel any apprehension of this kind, he would ask them to vote for his amendment, and thus give evidence that they were desirous to have a compromise. He was willing to go for a liberal compromise, as regards the city of Baltimore.

Mr. JENIFER was in favor of immediate action on the subject. He had, at one time, been disposed to postpone the subject, and had voted for postponement. But times had changed since that vote was given; reports had been made; the subject had been fully considered, and all were now ready to vote. For what purpose should the subject be sent back to the committee, when it has been told the House that the committee cannot agree. It would be the better course to vote at once on the question, and determine whether the Convention will take population as the basis of representation, and, that question decided, the House will have advanced a step. Without action of this kind, on the part of the House, the committee cannot be brought to an agreement; but let either, or both of these resolutions pass, and there will be a ground established on which the committee can act.

Mr. PRESSTMAN, of Baltimore city, said, he rose to offer an amendment, in order to hinder the call of the previous question, on the resolution from the Committee, which he anticipated was about being made by the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. RICAUD,) and at the same time, in a few remarks, to indicate a spirit of compromise upon this vexed question of representation.

He read the following amendment:

"That the committee on Representation and Apportionment be requested to report a plan of apportionment and representation, making num-